



Nevada Office of Veterans Services
950 West Owens Drive, Suite III
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NEVADA WOMEN VETERANS NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2010

REGISTER NOW

3rd Annual Nevada

Women Veterans Summit

March 27, 2010 - Las Vegas

www.veterans.nv.gov/WVC/WVS.html

IN THIS ISSUE

Carole's Corner

Women Veterans Summit Information

Have You Heard?

Studies of Interest to You

Women Veterans Internet Resources

Upcoming Events



NEVADA OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

VISION

To be the premier provider of veteran services.

MISSION

We establish and define our mission as three inter-related components:

- To provide a full continuum of quality services to eligible veterans and their families.
- To provide an environment of growth and opportunity to our employees.
- To provide our community and partners the opportunity to contribute in this endeavor.

In addition, NOVS focuses outreach efforts on special sub-populations of veterans, including women veterans, those residing in rural areas, veterans of the Global War on Terror, and homeless veterans.

SERVICES

NOVS is an advocate and provider of care for Nevada veterans. Serving America's heroes means understanding the stages of a veteran's life. NOVS understands those stages and provides the following core services:

- Veterans benefits assistance and advocacy.
- Skilled nursing services to veterans, their spouses, and Gold Star parents through the Nevada State Veterans Home in Boulder City.
- Memorial services through the veterans memorial cemeteries in Fernley and Boulder City.



Carole's Corner

The public celebration of women's history in this country began in 1978 as "Women's History Week." The week including March 8, International Women's Day, was selected. In 1981 Senator Orrin Hatch and Representative Barbara Mikulski cosponsored a joint Congressional Resolution proclaiming a national Women's History Week. In 1987 Congress expanded the celebration to a month, and March was declared Women's History Month. The overarching theme for Women's History Month this year is ***Writing Women Back into History***. It often seems that the history of women is written in invisible ink. Even when recognized in their own times, women are frequently left out of the history books. However, with passion and courage, women have demonstrated their ability to band together to serve, protect, and defend the highest ideals of our country, communities, and families.

Nevada women service members and veterans are making history. March is a great month to remember and celebrate women in military service, and celebrate we will! I extend a personal invitation to all Nevada active duty female service members, reservists, National Guard, and veterans to the **2010 Nevada Women Veterans Summit: Tools for Success**. Please register early and bring a female service member or veteran along with you to the Summit. You can find more about the Summit in this issue.

Please remember that you can contact me via the NOVS website by selecting the *Contact Us* link on the home page, or by phone at (702) 636-3070. I look forward to hearing from you, and don't forget, Nevada Women are Veterans Too. I am one of those Nevadans to proudly boast that honor.

Serving America's Heroines,
Carole L. Turner, RN, MN
NOVS Deputy Director

Nevada Women Veterans Summit 2010

Who: Women veterans, active duty personnel, reservists, and National Guard members residing in Nevada

When: Saturday, March 27, 2010
Registration & Breakfast 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.
General Sessions 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Where: Las Vegas Hilton and Casino
3000 Paradise Road
Las Vegas, NV 89109-1287



For room reservations call:
Hilton Toll Free 888-732-7117
Hilton Main Line: 702-732-5111
Mention group name
Nevada Women Veterans Summit

The monorail stops outside our door,
connecting the hotel with the Strip.

There is no cost to attend, but registration is required. Simply choose one of these easy registration options and we'll see you there.

Register online at
www.veterans.nv.gov/WVC/WVS.html

Complete the enclosed postcard,
affix a stamp, and mail today.

Call (702) 636-3070 and we'll register for you.

For more information and an agenda, visit
www.veterans.nv.gov/WVC/WVS.html

*It isn't just my brother's country, or my
husband's country, it's my country as well,
and so the war wasn't just their war, it was
my war, and I needed to serve in it.*

—Beatrice Hood Stroup, Major
Women's Army Corps, World War II

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Nevada State Veterans Home in Boulder City is accepting applications. The Home provides healthcare, social services, and activities for all honorably discharged veterans, their spouses, and Gold Star parents. For veterans, the VA covers a portion of the costs. The home has immediate availability or a very short waiting list. Call (702) 332-6717 for more information or to apply.

Same name, new face! On Veterans Day, VA rolled out the first phase of a large-scale web renovation to better service America's veterans. This is the first and most visible step of changing VA's web domain to better serve veterans and their families by making it easier for them to find the information they need about benefits and programs. Check out VA's new web face at www.va.gov.

United State Automobile Association (USAA) extended membership eligibility to anyone who ever served honorably in the US Armed Forces. If you know current service members and veterans who served honorably but haven't become USAA members, please share the news with them. Contact USAA at www.usaa.com.

USA Today poll finds most women to ignore new mammography guidelines. According to a *USA Today*/Gallup poll, "a vast majority of American women plan to ignore controversial new recommendations about mammograms," and they "perceive their breast cancer risk is to be higher than it really is," *USA Today* (11/24, Szabo, 2.11M) reports. "The poll also shows that most women sharply overestimate their risk of developing the disease." The survey of 1,136 women (+/-4%) found that 76% say they disagree or strongly disagree with the recommendations.

The NOVS Mobile Outreach Office (MOO) has been touring the state, reaching out to veterans and military personnel who may be unaware of the benefits and services they are eligible to receive. The MOO reaches out to them by participating in events in their communities and providing them an opportunity to meet with NOVS staff that can provide information about available benefits and programs, as well as conduct interviews to determine eligibility and assist with benefits applications.

"We are taking our veterans benefits assistance services on the road," explains Tim Tetz, NOVS Executive Director. "This is the greatest outreach resource we are able to offer in every Nevada community and at the major events in those communities. Our veterans and their families have sacrificed for our country and we want to make it easier for them to get the benefits they've earned."



The MOO is a retrofitted "toy hauler" that includes a waiting area and two offices, complete with computer and internet capabilities. It was purchased with donations made to the Nevada Veterans Gift Fund and the Nevada Veterans License Plate Program.

HUD's Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program (HUD-VASH)

HUD-VASH provides public housing agencies with rental assistance vouchers specifically targeted to assist homeless veterans. Public housing authorities that administer HUD's Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCV) provide rental assistance and work with VA Medical Centers to manage the program.

HUD's Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8) allows participants to rent privately owned housing and generally pay no more than 30 percent of annual adjusted income. In addition, Southern Nevada homeless veterans will receive clinical and supportive services through the VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System. The VA will screen homeless veterans to determine their eligibility. Eligible veterans will receive regular case management to retain the voucher.

For more information, contact Marsha Evans, Manager, at (702) 636-6000 ext. 6056 or marsha.evans@med.va.gov, or Gregory Abernathy at (702) 636-3000 ext. 6054 or gregory.abernathy@med.va.gov.

VA to Survey Veterans Households

The VA has launched a national survey of veterans, active duty service members, activated National Guard and reserve members, family members and survivors to learn if they are aware of VA services. VA is mailing out survey “screeners” to more than 130,000 households to identify potential survey participants. Participants will be able to select a preferred survey method through US mail, telephone, or password-protected internet address. VA expects more than 10,000 veterans to complete the full-length survey.

DOD Task Force on Sexual Assault Submits Findings, Recommendations

The Department of Defense (DoD) Task Force on Sexual Assault in the Military Services recently submitted its congressionally mandated report to the Secretary of Defense. The report finds DoD has made progress in improving the response to victims’ needs, but calls for DoD to do more to fully address the spectrum of sexual assault prevention and response. Recommendations highlight the need for institutional change to more effectively prevent sexual assault and address related issues.

The Secretary of Defense has 90 days to review, comment on and submit the report to Congress. A copy of the full report can be found at:

www.dtic.mil/dtfsams/reports.html

VA Conducting Study of Vietnam-Era Women Veterans

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric K. Shinseki announced the Department of Veterans Affairs has launched a comprehensive study of women veterans who served in the military during the Vietnam War to explore the effects of their military service upon their mental and physical health.

“One of my top priorities is to meet the needs of women veterans,” said Secretary Shinseki. “Our veterans have earned the very best care. VA realizes that women veterans require specialized programs, and this study will help VA provide high quality care for women veterans of the Vietnam era.”

The study, which began in November and will last more than four years, will contact approximately 10,000 women in a mailed survey, telephone interview, and review of their medical records.

As women Vietnam veterans approach their mid-sixties, it is important to understand the impact of wartime deployment on health and mental outcomes nearly 40 years later. The study will assess the prevalence of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other mental and physical health conditions for women Vietnam veterans, and explore the relationship between PTSD and other conditions.

VA will study women veterans who have had direct exposure to traumatic events, and for the first time, study those who served in facilities near Vietnam. These women may have had similar but less direct exposures. Both women veterans who receive their health care from VA and those who receive health care from other providers will be contacted to determine the prevalence of a variety of health conditions.

About 250,000 women served in the military during the Vietnam War and about 7,000 were in or near Vietnam. Those who were in Vietnam, those who served elsewhere in southeast Asia, and those who served in the United States are potential study participants.

The study represents to date the most comprehensive examination of a group of women Vietnam veterans, and will be used to shape future research on women veterans in future wars. Such an undertaking will lay the groundwork for planning and providing appropriate services for women veterans, as well as the aging veteran population.

Women veterans are one of the fastest-growing segments of the veteran population. There are approximately 1.8 million women veterans among the nation’s population of 23 million living veterans. Women comprise 7.8 percent of the total veteran population and nearly 5.5 percent of all veterans who use VA health care services. VA estimates women veterans will constitute 10.5 percent of the veteran population by 2020 and 9.5 percent of all VA patients.

The study, to be managed by VA’s Cooperative Studies Program, is projected to cost \$5.6 million.

WOMEN VETERANS INTERNET RESOURCES

**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Center for Women Veterans**
www1.va.gov/WOMENVET/

VA Health Care
www4.va.gov/healtheligibility/application

VA Women Veterans Health Care
www.publichealth.va.gov/womenshealth/

VA Military Sexual Trauma Program
www.publichealth.va.gov/womenshealth/trauma.asp

**VA Women Veterans Health Care:
Homeless Services**
[www.publichealth.va.gov/womenshealth/
homeless.asp](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/womenshealth/homeless.asp)

Native American Women Veterans
[www.defenselink.mil/specials/americanindian/
women.html](http://www.defenselink.mil/specials/americanindian/women.html)

**Women in Military Service of America
(WIMSA) Memorial**
www.womensmemorial.org

Women Marines Association
www.womenmarines.org

Women's Army Corps Veterans Association
www.armywomen.org

Navy Nurse Corps Veterans Association
www.nnca.org

WAVES National
www.womenofthewaves.com

Army Nurse Corps Association
www.e-anca.org



Did you know?

As a woman veteran, you may be eligible to receive gender-specific services, including pap smears, mammograms, prenatal, and childcare. To access these services, apply for VA health care by completing VA Form 10-10EZ. Obtain the form one of the following ways: visit, call or write any VA health care facility or veteran's benefits office and ask for the Women Veterans Program Manager; call toll free 877-222-VETS (8387); or access the form at www.va.gov.

The VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System Women Veterans Program Manager, Nancy Faye, LCSW, is located at the VA Central Clinic / Delta Point at 901 Rancho Drive in Las Vegas. You can contact Nancy at (702) 636-3000 ext. 6106.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Nevada Office of Veterans Services

Legislative Symposium

March 27, 2010

Las Vegas Hilton - 3000 Paradise Road, Las Vegas

NOVS has a very active legislative program. Preparation for the 2011 legislative session starts with this event, where we will identify the issues important to Nevada's veterans and develop a list of the concerns that we will address next year. Later this year NOVS will hold its Legislative Summit to further define its legislative priorities and plan for the 2011 session, including educational sessions for you to learn about lobbying legislators and advocating for veterans' issues. During the session we will hold a Veterans and National Guard Day at the Legislature for you to meet with legislators and help shape the future for veterans in our state.

Your input is very important to us, so please join us for this first step in our preparation for the 2011 legislative session. Registration for this event opens in February, at which time you will be able to find more information at www.veterans.nv.gov.



3rd Annual Nevada Women Veterans Summit

March 27, 2010 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Las Vegas Hilton - 3000 Paradise Road, Las Vegas

Find information in this newsletter, or visit the NOVS website to register and for upcoming event details at www.veterans.nv.gov/WVC/WVS.html.



VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System

Welcome Home 2010

June 4, 2010 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Gold Coast Casino - 4000 West Flamingo Road, Las Vegas

Welcome Home 2010 is an event for Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom active duty service members and veterans and their families to appreciate them for their service to the United States and provide information to them about available health services offered by the Veterans Health Administration. For more information, contact Catherine Sines at (702) 636-3000 ext. 4525 or at catherine.sines@va.gov.

Share Your Thoughts

Nevada Office of Veterans Services - Services for Women

Help us help you better understand your status and the benefits for which you are eligible by taking a brief online survey. Visit www.veterans.nv.gov, select *Services for Women*, and then *Take our Survey*. We value your feedback, and taking our survey is the quickest and easiest way to share your thoughts.



NEVADA OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

Toll Free 866-630-VETS (8387)

www.veterans.nv.gov

LOCATIONS

Reno Office

5460 Reno Corporate Drive

Reno, NV 89511

(775) 688-1653

Las Vegas Office

950 West Owens Drive, Room III

Las Vegas, NV 89106

(702) 636-3070

Satellite Office

4800 Alpine, 2nd Floor

Las Vegas, NV 89107

Elko County Office

825 Railroad Street

Elko, NV 89801

(775) 777-1000

Churchill County Office

485 West B Street, Suite 103

Fallon, NV 89406

(775) 428-1177

Southern Nevada

Veterans Memorial Cemetery

1900 Buchanan Boulevard

Boulder City, NV 89005

(702) 486-5920

Northern Nevada

Veterans Memorial Cemetery

P.O. Box 1919

Fernley, NV 89408

(775) 575-4441

Nevada State Veterans Home

100 Veterans Memorial Drive

Boulder City, NV 89005

(702) 332-6784